

## JUDGE DENIES CHAPMAN PLEA ON MAKE-UP OF JURY PANEL

### ONE FIREMAN KILLED WHEN CITY HALL AT NEWPORT IS PARTIALLY RAZED BY FIRE

**Captain Tumbles To  
Death Down Flight  
of Stairs—Another  
Badly Hurt When  
Roof Falls In on Him.**

**Damage to Building Is  
More Than \$200,000—  
Probe Started to Ascertain  
if Blaze Was Incendiary.**

Newport, R. I., March 24.—One member of the Newport fire department lost his life today in a fire which caused damage to the city hall building estimated at more than \$200,000, John Royman, a call fireman, was badly hurt when a part of the roof fell on him. Captain John Malloy was killed by falling down a flight of stairs when dazed with smoke.

**Report of Incendiary**  
While streams were still playing on the ruins city authorities began an investigation of reports that the fire was of incendiary origin.

Captain John Malloy, a veteran member of the fire department, was killed when he fell down a flight of stairs in the building after having been overcome by smoke. Several others were overcome or suffered minor injuries.

**Discovered at 3 a. m.**  
The fire was discovered shortly after 3 o'clock on the second floor of the city hall, and spread rapidly. Defective wiring was first assigned as a probable cause, but members of the board of aldermen today recalled that before their meeting last night an oily rag was found in one of the rooms of the building. Inquiries revealed that the rag had been left by cleaners. At last night's city council meeting an appropriation of \$11,000 was passed to cover damage caused by a fire in the building a month ago.

Fire apparatus from the naval training station and from nearby towns was rushed to the aid of the Newport force in a vain effort to halt the flames. The roof collapsed and the entire interior of the building had been consumed by 3 o'clock, only the outer walls remaining standing. The city records were believed to be safe, but were scattered among various city buildings, and the vaults were uninjured.

The city hall was built in 1923 at a cost of between \$200,000 and \$250,000.

**Records Destroyed**  
A checkup later indicated that the records of the school committee, board of health, building inspector and recreation department had been destroyed. The land and other records covering a period of more than 200 years were removed safely to a school building nearby, and other records were saved although there was water damage in some cases.

Mayor Sullivan called a special meeting of the board of aldermen at 8:30 o'clock this morning, and the board planned to remain in session all day. The Sheffield building, selected as the site for a new court house, will be used as a temporary city hall. The fire was the third in three months in the building.

### ELECTION OF MEETING BOARD IS ADVANCED

**Mayor and City Clerk Decide to Set  
Date at April 2 Instead of  
On April 6**

Because the electors will be busy preparing for primaries and the city election during the week of April 6, the date originally set for the city meeting board special election, Mayor A. M. Paonessa and City Clerk Alfred L. Thompson decided today to issue the call for April 2, instead of April 6.

Mayor Paonessa has written the aldermen advising them of the changed date and requesting that ward caucuses be held for the purposes of nominating candidates for the board. In almost every ward there are vacancies to be filled in addition to the election of eight members for three year terms.

**French-German Potash  
Syndicate Protested**  
Washington, March 21.—Formal complaint was lodged with Secretary Kellogg today by Senator Harris of Georgia, against practices of the French-German potash syndicate.

### Professional Baseball, Football Under Local Control Sundays Is Before Legislature For Action

**75 Pound Boy Says  
240 Pound Sheriff  
Gave Him Beating**

Waterbury, March 14.—Deputy Sheriff William Jenuasitis, weighing 240 pounds, was arraigned in city court this morning on a charge of beating an 8 year old school boy who weighs about 75 pounds. The deputy's case was continued until Thursday. He surrendered when a warrant was issued for him.

### COOLIDGE STARTS ON MOVE FOR CONFERENCE

**Instructs Kellogg to Take  
Preliminary Steps for  
Disarmament Session**

Washington, March 24.—President Coolidge has suggested to Secretary Kellogg that certain definite preliminary steps be taken toward laying the ground work for a new naval limitation conference.

### FIRST DAY OF DRIVE BRINGS IN OVER \$9,000

**Teams Report Substantial  
Contributions at Ki-  
wanis Luncheon**

More than \$9,000 was reported at the close of the first day of the Community Chest drive at the luncheon of the workers at the Burrill hotel today.

The report of the team captains and the amounts pledged were as follows:

Captain	Pledge	Amount
S. Raymond	577	\$806.45
G. Rawlings	408	1052.75
F. Hausman	187	600.25
George Bean	98	219.00
E. Kisselbach	259	370.50
Russell Gold	172	604.40
H. E. Parker	169	499.00
Logan Page	50	268.50
E. J. Shjorden	119	576.75
Mrs. G. Kimball	23	208.35
C. W. Parker	21	309.20
Mrs. J. C. Loomis	59	291.50
Dr. W. W. Pullen	22	351.00
Mrs. L. W. Young	15	329.50
G. H. Pyson	39	325.35
Miss Mary Meyer	50	499.00
Frank H. Shield	92	410.35
B. A. Graybowick	60	222.60
Mrs. Owsalik	20	214.75
Mrs. H. C. Warner	22	209.25
C. W. Buckley	55	285.55

Total ..... \$9,067.00

Entertainment was provided during the luncheon by "The Serenaders."

The work of the Boy Scouts of America was explained and illustrated by stories of incidents during a troop camp, by J. Harold Williams of Providence, R. I., who was introduced as the youngest Boy Scout executive in America.

Mr. Williams referred to the satisfaction felt by a sculptor when he designs a statue or an engineer when he builds a bridge and compared this to the satisfaction of a scoutmaster when he realized he is "modeling manhood."

He told a story of two Boy Scouts who were lost in the woods and of their experiences getting back and said "A lot of people spend their time trying to get back on the trail and at the end of the day they have nothing to show for it."

The workers were guests of the Lions club today. Tomorrow they will be guests of the Kiwanis club.

In addition to the teams and captains published in yesterday's Herald the factory teams are as follows:

W. C. Sears, director.  
Landers, Frary & Clark: Captain, Sherwood Raymond; Ralph Clapp, Ben Holt, John Heckman, Mike Heckman, Ernest Reindal, E. L. Hoyle, George Rodin, Ralph LaBrancha, F. W. Schade, A. Handbury, George Comstock, John Hubert, Joseph Elmer, H. T. Durr, A. Johnson.

**House Receives From Ju-  
diciary Committee the  
Buckley Bill Designed to  
Allow Such Games—Ve-  
toed in 1921 and De-  
feated in 1923.**

State Capitol, Hartford, March 24.—Professional baseball and football on Sundays under local control is again a possibility in Connecticut as the house received from the judiciary committee today the Buckley bill, heard last Thursday, to allow such games on Sunday afternoons.

Such a bill was adopted in 1921 and vetoed and its adoption two years ago failed because a roll call was demanded in the house and according to Major Buckley, then a republican floor leader, many members who had promised to vote to localize that which is now done in many communities "turned hypocrites" because they refused to go on record by roll call on the bill and yet refused to adopt a law to enforce statutes against professional sports.

**Medical Practice Bill**  
A very large number of persons interested in likely changes in the present medical practices act were here today for the hearing this afternoon, before the judiciary committee on the bill offered by Senator Brigham which was drawn by Benedict M. Holden foreman of the inquisitorial grand jury, which a year ago investigated conditions in Connecticut because of an exposure of operations of "take diploma mills" here.

Senator Brigham, legislative member of the grand jury which is still existent.

The bill which was the subject of the hearing has been denounced by its opponents who claim that it would set up "a medical trust" and it had been sponsored by the Connecticut chamber of commerce as a "reform measure" representatives of the organization speaking in various parts of the state in advocacy of it.

Several schools of medicine of the United States have opposed the bill claiming the intent of it is to legislate them out of legal standing in the state.

The gathering at the hearing was made up of allopaths, osteopaths, chiropractors, homeopaths, electric, naturopaths and others, all seemingly anxious to be heard. Many attorneys were on hand to represent clients who are medical men.

The hearing was in the hall of the house of representatives and was its first general hearing this session on a bill which drew a large attendance. The next "big bill" to be heard will be that on the Wheeler enforcement bill, so-called, next month.

Adoption of the bill is forecast but some discussion on it may come in the house.

**Judges Approved**  
The governor's nominations of Eugene F. Farley and Sheridan Whitaker to be judges at New Haven were confirmed by the senate.

The house concurred on the Farley and Whitaker resolutions. Mr. Farley received 156 votes with 15 against Whitaker 174 with ten against. Both judges will take their seats July 1.

The house received a bill to abolish the school district in New Britain.

Both branches adopted a resolution for \$1,000 to meet expense of exchange of a confederate flag captured in the Civil war for a Connecticut officers sword now held at New Orleans. The "stars and bars" flag was shown from the speaker's desk and was also on a table in the senate chamber when the resolution was before each body.

**Safe Crackers Get \$40,000  
At Valparaiso Post Office**

Chicago, March 24.—The Valparaiso, Ind., post office was robbed of postage and revenue stamps valued at \$40,000 by safe blowers early today, the detective bureau here was notified by the Valparaiso police chief. The robbers were thought to have come from Chicago.

**WANTS WOODLOCK'S PLANS.**  
Washington, March 24.—President Coolidge intends to ascertain whether or not Thomas P. Woodlock of New York will accept a recess appointment as a member of the interstate commerce commission before reaching a decision as to what steps should be taken to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Commissioner Potter.

**THE WEATHER**  
For New Britain and vicinity: Fair and warmer tonight; Wednesday unsettled and warmer.

He Says: "You Did"



STATE ATTORNEY ALCONRO

He Says: "I Didn't"



GERALD CHAPMAN

He Says: "He Did"



WALTER SHEAN

The Victim



POLICEMAN SKELLY

### MRS. SKELLY DOESN'T WANT CHAPMAN HANGED FOR CRIME

#### FLURRY OVER REWARD ELBOWS TRIAL ITSELF

#### Runs Second in Interest to Selection of Jury

Crowding the trial of Gerald Chapman for the limelight is a question of who will get the rewards for the arrest of Chapman if he is found guilty of murdering Policeman James Skelly. This problem is in the minds of many of the police witnesses and is only second in importance to the selection of a jury.

Judge Frederick J. Groch, senior counsel for Gerald Chapman, said today: "All this talk about who is going to get the \$4,000 in rewards for the capture of Chapman is a little premature, for unless I have been incorrectly informed, \$3,500 of that was offered for the capture of the murderer of Patrolman Skelly, and he has not been caught as yet. So the rewards are still to be won."

In spite of this assurance by Judge Groch, the speculation persisted and undoubtedly will continue to persist until Judge Newell Jennings, who will be called upon to decide the question if Chapman is found guilty, has made his announcement. The rewards were offered "for the capture or information leading to the capture" of the patrolman's murderer.

According to the stories of the capture and the events leading up to it, a number of different officials were involved from the finding of the first clue and the ultimate arrest.

**Is Tag Worth \$4,000**  
If the American express tag containing the address of Dr. Harry Spickerman in Munich, Ind., is considered the clue or information leading to the capture near the doctor's home in that city, leaves a number of possibilities. The tag was found on a bag in Shean's office in Springfield. The information leading to the finding of the tag was given to Chief William C. Hart of the local police department by a man whose identity has not been revealed. Chief Hart

#### If He Is Guilty "God Will Punish Him," Widow of Murdered Policeman De- clares.

Mrs. James Skelly, widow of the policeman who was murdered on October 12, 1924, hopes that Gerald Chapman, accused of the crime, will not be hanged, even if he is found guilty.

Mrs. Skelly was found engaged in making doughnuts at her home, 235 South Main street, when newspaper called to see her.

She was asked if she intended to be present at the Chapman trial and replied in the negative. "I haven't any wish to go," she said. "Poor Pa is dead and going to look at the man they say killed him will not help me any or bring him to life again."

Referring to Chapman, she said: "I suppose he did it. Everybody says he did. I don't know anything about it except that Pa was killed by somebody."

"He did me all the harm he could do and he should be punished. For the sake of humanity he ought to be put away where he can't hurt people but I don't believe he ought to be hanged. God will punish him."

Mrs. Skelly said she had never seen Chapman and didn't want to see him. For this reason, she explained, she would not go to the trial.

### ENO GOES BANKRUPT

**Prominent Simsbury Farmer Has As-  
sets of \$10,320 and Liabilities  
Totalling \$85,047.77.**

New Haven, March 24.—Jonathan E. Eno, farmer of Simsbury and said to be a member of one of the oldest families in the state filed a petition in bankruptcy here today giving assets of \$10,320 and liabilities of \$85,047.77. There are no secured claims of \$42,176.77. Most of the creditors are in Hartford and Simsbury.

Linford W. Clark, plumber of Farmington, filed a petition listing assets of \$1,577.14 and liabilities of \$3,017.49 and Joseph W. Caraher of bridgeport, in a petition listed assets of \$5,000 and liabilities of \$2,574.83.

**DENY MUSSOLINI VERY ILL.**  
Washington, March 24.—The Italian embassy today issued a formal statement denying that the condition of Premier Mussolini of Italy is serious.

### Defense Explodes Sensation at Open- ing of Trial by Attempt to Halt Pro- ceedings—Spectacular Cavalcade of Armed Guards Escorts Bandit From Prison to Courtroom

#### Five Jurors Chosen Up To 2.45 This Afternoon

Hartford, March 24.—In a court room tense with expectancy, Gerald Chapman, accused of the murder of Policeman James Skelly in New Britain, on October 12, 1924, today began his fight to escape the noose at Wethersfield state prison.

When court recessed at 1 o'clock this afternoon only two jurors had been chosen. They were Fred W. Viets, a farmer, of East Granby and Thomas Rourke, an insurance man, of Farmington. Viets is a young man—in his thirties. Rourke is 59 years old.

"Viets seems to be a fair man—he'll decide this case on the evidence," Chapman said during the recess.

Juror No. 3, A. W. Burrows, Bloomfield, a book-keeper was accepted by both sides within ten minutes after court opened for the afternoon session. As in the cases of the first two men accepted defense counsel did not accept Burrows until Chapman had nodded his approval.

The fourth juror was chosen a few minutes later. He was Lawrence Klein, an Enfield salesman.

The fifth juror chosen was Walter S. Case of Canton.

At the opening of the trial, which is expected to be replete with thrills, the defense created a sensation by attempting to have the panel of talesmen from which the jury will be selected changed. Attorney Murphy, of counsel for the defense, argued on the challenge, claiming that too many talesmen were selected from remote rural districts and that they were not chosen in public.

During the argument of the challenge spectators and officials held their breaths as it was realized that the case which has attracted attention from one end of the country to the other might be halted before it was well under way. State Attorney Hugh M. Alcorno, upon whose shoulders rests the burden of bringing about a conviction, did not appear disturbed by the motion to enlarge the panel.

Attorney Murphy argued that it would have been more fair to select a panel of talesmen more representative of the county. He pointed to the fact that the city of Hartford, with one-third of the population in the county, was not represented on the panel. He also noted a similar situation with regard to other cities.

Judge Newell Jennings, who will hear the evidence in the case, sat immobile during Attorney Murphy's argument, and then denied the motion. He explained that due notice had been given that the panel would be drawn and, therefore, it could not be properly said that it was not held in public. He expressed the conviction that the jury would not be chosen from the 150 talesmen who had been summoned and said that included in the next panel would be citizens of larger communities, such as Hartford and New Britain.

After Judge Jennings had denied the motion, the work of selecting the jury was begun.

Chapman is personally picking his own jury, the 12 men who are expected to reach a decision which means life or death to him. As each prospective juror is called, Chapman studies him intently, apparently relying on his acute and trained powers of observation to determine the fitness of the candidate.

Attorney Nathan O. Friedman of Hartford, associated with counsel for the defense, examined the talesmen this morning as they were called. He asked several questions and then went over to Chapman and sat down with him. In every instance the decision whether the prospective juror was acceptable to the defense was made by the bandit himself. He gave each candidate severe consideration and then made his decision after rubbing his chin and apparently reflecting on the impression the candidate had made on him. A terse "No", and the prospective juror was excused.

Each side is entitled to 25 peremptory challenges.

Stanley J. Dickinson, a salesman living in Burlington was the first juror examined and he fell a victim to a peremptory challenge by Attorney Friedman, who questioned in behalf of the defense.

The juror qualified for the state after questioning by State Attorney Alcorno. He said he believed in the imposition of the death penalty and that he had not formed any opinion on the case. "Do you know of anything that would make it impossible to sit on the jury in this case and give an impartial decision?" Alcorno asked. The witness answered that he knew of none.

Attorney Friedman then took up the questioning of the juror and although the witness gave the proper answers to all questions, he appeared a little anxious to serve on the jury.

Paul Neuscheler of Glastonbury was the next examined and he was disqualified from service when he

said he was opposed to the death penalty.

**Photographers Allowed.**  
Judge Jennings' main aim when court opened that he would not allow photographs taken in the courtroom. He said he had received several requests from newspaper photographers but wanted to understand that the proceedings constituted a trial, not a dramatic performance. Judge Jennings declared that he was making his objection plain so that if anyone was approached in the act of taking a photograph in the courtroom, he would know how to act and what measures to take.

Those assembled for the trial were surprised at 9:30 o'clock when William Ostrowski of Newington was presented for trial on a charge of breach of the peace. They were prepared for a sensation and the minor importance of the case before the

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